

Deforestation

What is Deforestation?

- **Deforestation** is when people remove or clear large areas of forest lands and related ecosystems for non-forest use.
- Since the industrial age, about half of world's original forests have been destroyed and millions of animals and living things have been endangered.
- An estimated 18 million acres (7.3 million hectares) of forest are lost every year

Why does People Clear Forest Land?

Trees are cut down (deforestation) for many reasons including:

- To be used, sold, or exported as timber, wood, or fuel (charcoal). This is called **logging**.
- To be used for farming purposes (grazing fields or livestock, or large scale farming activities)
- To make room for human settlement and urbanization (these include making space for shelter, industries, and roads.)
- To make room for mining

Effects on Deforestation

- **Soil Erosion Deconstruction**
 - Soil is exposed to heat and dries up. Nutrients evaporate and eventually, rain washes down the soil surfaces and erosion takes place. Soils never get there full potential back.
- **Water Cycle**
 - Most water is taken into the plants through the roots. Some of the moisture transpires into the atmosphere. Without the trees, less water transpires into the atmosphere.
- **Loss of Biodiversity**
 - More then 80% of the worlds species live in rainforests. If the trees are cut down then there homes are taken away from them. This is causing a lot of species to become endangered or go extinct. We are losing more and more species every year.

- **Climate Change**
 - Plants absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere to make food and replace it with oxygen. Destroying the forests means CO₂ remains in the atmosphere and there will not be enough oxygen to survive.

Fun Facts

- Every hour, at least 4,500 acres of forest fall to chain saws, machetes, flames, or bulldozers.
- Currently the world's forests store 283 billion tons (equivalent to the size of 40.1 billion elephants) of carbon in their biomass.
- About half of the world's tropical forests have been cleared.
- Forests currently cover about 30 percent of the world's land mass.
- Forest loss contributes between 12 percent and 17 percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions.

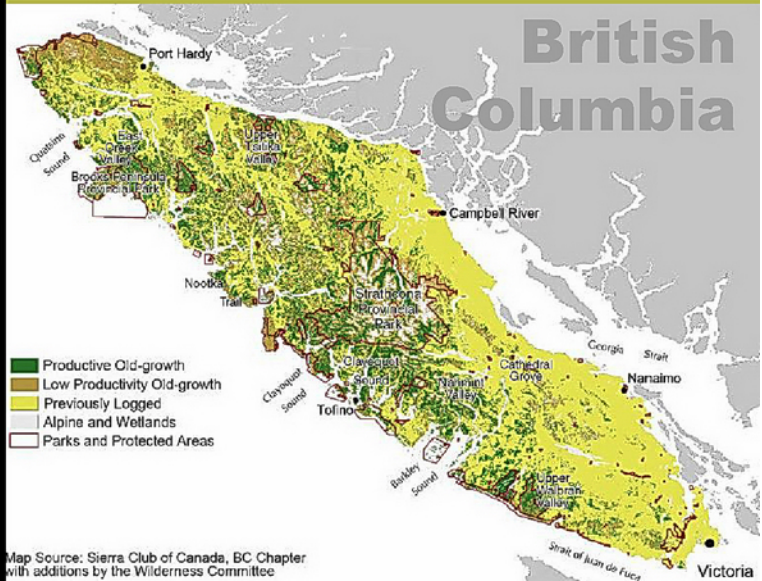
Easy Ways to Prevent Deforestation

- Reduce use of items made from trees.
- Recycle and reuse items.
- Plant trees.





Ancient Forests 2004 (Dark Green) Vancouver Island



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